THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. Representations against the inclusion of certain individuals in the Consultative Groups were received from various sources outside the Government.

(b) No, Sir. It has been decided to consult individuals separately as part of the Mid Term Appraisal process.

Multi-national agencies in Planning Commission

789. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several multi-national agencies were appointed in the recent past to work in the Planning Commission;

(b) the details of such foreign agencies engaged by the Commission, area of activities allotted to respective agencies and the terms of their appointment;

(c) whether their engagements were based on any formal agreement between the Commission and the respective agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that Commission has since terminated appointments of all these foreign agencies;

(f) if so, the reasons for termination of their appointments; and

(g) the financial impact of such termination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had announced the formation of Consultative Groups covering different areas for the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002—07). These Groups included, amongst others, some individuals working with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and International Consultancy Firms in India.

(c) and (d) There was no formal agreement between these agencies and the Planning Commission.

(e) to (g) The Planning Commission had received representations/ communications against the involvement of individuals associated with international financial institutions and also international consultancy firms in the Consultative Groups. The matter was reviewed and it was decided to dissolve the Consultative Groups. There has been no financial impact of dissolution of these Groups.

Special package for Madhya Pradesh

790. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such States which have demanded special packages;

(b) whether Government propose to constitute a task force in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, the reaction of Government to provide special package;

(d) whether Government are considering on demand of special package by Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) the details of special package given to different States in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) States which have demanded special packages during 2004-05 are Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) There is no scheme or structure under the Government of India where special packages for States is approved for any State, including Madhya Pradesh. Allocations and releases for various State-specific need-based special dispensations such as those requested by States under Financial/Economic/Special Packages are made as and when warranted through various existing programmes and schemes under the Five Year Plan.